

sents a spectrum of a block of temporal samples of the audio signal and where priority code words are aligned with raster points, so that the start of a priority code word representing a spectral value of the block of spectral values coincides with one raster point and the start of another priority code word representing another spectral value of the block of spectral values coincides with another raster point, comprising:

- (a) a unit for detecting the distance between two adjacent raster points;
- (b) a unit for resorting the priority code words, which are aligned with the raster points, in the coded bit stream in such a way as to obtain a linear arrangement of the same with frequency, the start of a priority code word coinciding with a raster point;
- (c) a unit for decoding the priority code words with an associated code table to obtain decoded spectral values; and
- (d) a unit for transforming the decoded spectral values back into the time domain to obtain a decoded audio signal.

26. A device according to claim 25, where the coded bit stream contains code words of different lengths from at least two code tables and has a raster with at least two groups of equidistant raster points further comprising:

a unit for identifying the code table associated with a spectral section;

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where the unit for decoding is designed to decode the priority code words of a spectral section with the corresponding associated code table.

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**Methods and Devices for Coding or Decoding an Audio Signal
or Bit Stream**

Abstract

In a method for coding an audio signal to obtain a coded bit stream, discrete-time samples of the audio signal are transformed into the frequency domain to obtain spectral values. The spectral values are coded with a code table having a limited number of code words of different lengths to obtain spectral values coded by code words, the length of a code word assigned to a spectral value being that much shorter the higher the probability of occurrence of the spectral value is. A raster is then specified for the coded bit stream, the raster having equidistant raster points and the distance between the raster points depending on the code table(s) used. In order to obtain error-tolerant Huffman coding, priority code words, which represent particular spectral values which are psycho-acoustically more important than other spectral values, are so arranged in the raster that the start of each priority code word coincides with a raster point.

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